



Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

DELEGATES NEWS LETTER – VOLUME 2 – SUMMER 2015

65th General Service Conference ***Theme: Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and*** ***Service - The Foundation of Our Future***

On April 19-25, 2015 the 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference (GSC) was held at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel in New York, NY. There were 134 voting members of the Conference consisting of Area Delegates (93), General Service Board Trustees, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine Directors (26), and General Service Office (GSO) and Grapevine Staff (15). Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

As your Panel 65 Delegate thank you for the opportunity to represent Area 83 Eastern Ontario International at the 65th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. The work of the conference goes on all your long and I look forward to continuing work for the rest of 2015.

By sharing your group's conscience on the agenda items, you gave me an amazing depth of experience, strength and hope from which to share at the conference. I will be grateful for the tireless work and love for Alcoholics Anonymous you have shown me.

I hope to be able to hand out the final conference report at the September 12, 2015 Area Committee Meeting. Also the final report on the Inventory which was done at the last 3 conferences should be out later this year, as well. Stay tuned!

The following are the dates of service meetings where Districts heard the Delegates report:

- **May 24, 2015 – Districts 26, 28, 82 & 86 at the Alano Club in Oshawa**
- **May 30, 2015 – Districts 02, 06, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 & 22 at Information A.A. Day at 519 Church Street in Toronto**
- **June 13, 2015 – Districts 42, 48 & 50 in Cornwall**
- **June 14, 2015 – Districts 54, 58 & 62 in Ottawa**

All of these events were well attended. Thank you to all who attended and participated.



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Our General Service Office is looking for members Experience, Strength and Hope for 3 revised pamphlets.

1. Call for stories to update "A.A. for the Woman"

In response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that "the pamphlet 'A.A. for the Woman' be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A.," including "stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds," the trustee's Literature Committee is seeking stories from women in A.A.

In 2014, the trustees' Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: Literature@aa.org and put "A.A. for the Woman" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015.



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2. Call for stories to update "A.A. for Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic"

The trustee's Literature Committee is seeking stories from A.A. members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a *newcomer* and *sponsorship*. This request is in response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" be revised to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience. The title of the pamphlet will also be revised to reflect this broader scope.

In 2014, the trustees' Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in a 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: Literature@aa.org and put "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015.



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3. Call for A.A. recovery experience from members with mental health issues and from those who sponsor such members.

The trustee's Literature Committee is requesting a wide range of A.A. recovery experience from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members, for inclusion in literature on this topic. This request is in response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendation that the trustees' Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.

In 2014, the trustees' Literature committee requested that, whenever gathering sharing, consideration be given to stories from disabled veterans and from non-believers.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in a 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: Literature@aa.org and put "the alcoholic with mental health issues" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015.



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OF GROUPS SECTION

If you would like the history of your group highlighted please send the information to delegate@area83aa.org and I will be pleased to share it with the rest of the area.

The following are two group histories I have received which I would like to share with you:

Heritage Group History-DISTRICT 62

The group that became known as Heritage started meeting in late 1988 in a room of the Olde Forge log cabin, at the corner of Carling Avenue and Richmond road.

In 1989 the City of Ottawa asked the group to move to another location and it was at that time that Brian Lennon approached, with some other members of the church, All Saints Lutheran to request space for an AA meeting. The congregation agreed to do so, and Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. was the slot the Group was given to hold their meetings. The name Heritage was adopted, by group conscience, after the building "Olde Forge" had been designated a *heritage* site by the City of Ottawa.

From its very beginning, the Heritage group was and continues to be a closed discussion meeting with an open speaker format for celebrations on the 1st Tuesday of the month. In the early years, the closed discussion meeting was a step related & topic directed discussion using the 12 & 12 combined with an open topic format. As attendance grew, so did the need to add more discussion groups who would branch off to different rooms for the discussion and come back to the main room to close. The 12&12 step group separated from the open topic and became two separate groups, and a beginner group and a Big Book group were added. By my arrival in 2010, attendance had continued to grow and a 5th group was added using the book 'Living Sober' and since the summer of 2011, for the summer months only, a 6th group was added and meets outside using the book 'Came To Believe'.



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Going back to the 90s for moment, the main room where the group meets at All Saint Lutheran Church is in the 'sanctuary' part of the church. Until about 1995 or 1996, a large crucifix hung at the front of the room. Often times, people seeking an AA meeting would enter the room, see the crucifix and promptly turn around. The group members at the time approached the priest in charge, to see if moving the crucifix might be a possibility, but the priest refused. After that priest left however, a new priest came in and was quite sympathetic to the Higher Power concept spoken about in the rooms of AA, and agreed to have the crucifix moved to the meeting hall downstairs, where it lives today.

Although Heritage attendance has continued to grow, membership has fluctuated over the years. Throughout the 90's and early 2000's, group membership at the business meeting fluctuated between 3 to 20+ attendees. We now have a steady 12-15 in regular attendance with some fluctuation upwards of that. Two of the founding members of the Heritage Group, Brian Lennon and Barney Connolly, remained members until they passed away in 2009, both at age 77, one month apart; on Feb. 7th and March 8th respectively. I was not fortunate enough to meet either of them or learn from their wisdom directly, but I have most certainly been on the receiving end of their message through other members who did. For that I am grateful. Brian and Barney, as well as early Heritage Member Brian M-C (who moved to Calgary a few short years ago) were GSRs for Heritage group and with some accumulated service commitment experience all became DCMs for District 62 (Ottawa West) in the 90's. Other long time Heritage Members who remain with the group today are Paul R, Jim McS, Juliet H, Fabio G, Devyn R and Adam O to name a few. These people have been rocks at Heritage for as long as I've been a member and beyond.

Now Heritage may sound like an old timer's men's meeting, but that is not the case at all. In fact, in 2010, I was looking for a new home group and one of the qualities that I was looking for was that there be some women in attendance that I could connect with. Heritage Group had that representation and I quickly found myself looking forward to connecting with these lovely ladies each week. Long term members like Mary L, Juliet H, Chris F and Jennifer B were members there, and wonderful women like Alia H, Laura R, Ginny R, Sylvie L and Caitlyn B were regular frequenters who have since become members like myself.

Yours in recovery, Kelly R

History of the Streetsville Action Group-

District 06

The first meeting of the group (an open meeting) was held at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 14th, 1983 (St. Valentine's Day) at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 295 Queen Street South, Streetsville, Ontario. Among those present were David W, Ross S and Tim C.

The group continued to hold open meetings every Wednesday evening from that day on, until sometime in the 1990's when our group conscience meeting decided to change the format of the last meeting of each month to be a closed step discussion meeting. All other meetings were still open.

Following renovations to the church, St. Andrew's was no longer able to guarantee that a room would be available for us every Wednesday evening; group conscience was consulted and the group reluctantly decided it should move. Unfortunately this date was not recorded in the group's archives,



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but sometime in the early 2000's we held our first meeting at the Streetsville United Church, 274 Queen Street South, Streetsville, Ontario, where we have met ever since.

In July 2003, the group approached the church and received permission to hold a closed meeting every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in addition to our regular 8:30 p.m. open meeting. At first this was on a 6-month trial basis but the meetings quickly became well attended and they are now held on a permanent basis – we normally have a beginner's room (steps 1, 2 & 3) and a rotating step 1 through 12 room. At the end of each month we also have a rotating Tradition discussion meeting.

On Wednesday, February 20th, 2013 the group celebrated its 30th anniversary, and we were delighted to be able to welcome our guest speaker that night... Ross S, one of the original founder members of the group thirty years earlier.

Currently the group membership is healthy, with upward of 20 members, and we have members with varying lengths of sobriety from 1 to almost 26 years. We welcome many visiting members from other groups, and thank them wholeheartedly for their support of our group. You have been an integral part of our history, and deserve to be recognized as such.

Streetsville Action Group is proud to continue carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholic, and looks forward to helping all alcoholics... one day at a time.

Yours in Service, Peter B. (Unofficial Group Archivist)



**Area Committee Meeting – September 12, 2015 @ 10:00 A.M.
Westminster United Church –
1199 Wallbridge-Loyalist Road, Belleville, Ontario K8N 4Z5**

**Area Assembly – October 23, 24, 25 2015 at the Ambassador
Hotel in Kingston.**

Everyone is welcome to attend both! Hope to see you there.



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For anyone who is interested in seeing the full Delegate's Report of the 65th General Service Conference, go to the Area 83 Website at www.area83aa.org. Look under resources for the Delegate and click on 65th General Service Report. Please share this with the members of your group and districts, especially those who have not have the opportunity to have your Delegate present at a service day.



The state, province or territory with the greatest percentage growth in *new* Grapevine and/or La Viña subscriptions at the end of 2015 will be featured on the covers of 2016 Grapevine or La Viña issues with a dedicated special section highlighting local member's stories of recovery from that state, province or territory.

The **Carry The Message** effort will focus on getting Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions to alcoholics in need in one of two ways. The first will forward contact information from alcoholic's subscription request letters that are received by AAGV, Inc. from the Corrections desk to the local area for possible fulfillment. The second way encourages members, groups and districts to forward purchased subscription gift certificates to the area delegate for forwarding to the appropriate committees such as: Corrections, Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibility/LIM, CPC and etc.

Below is a listing of all the Provinces. As you can see Ontario is leading across Canada.



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Province/Territory						
661	42	6.35	Alberta	3	0	0
802	64	7.98	British Columbia	4	1	25
278	12	4.32	Manitoba	1	0	0
156	20	12.82	New Brunswick	2	0	0
64	2	3.13	Newfoundland/Labrador	0	0	0
25	0	0	Northwest Territory	0	0	0
244	5	2.05	Nova Scotia	1	0	0
3	0	0	Nunavut	0	0	0
2708	93	3.43	Ontario	33	0	0
66	4	6.06	Prince Edward Island	0	0	0
224	21	9.38	Quebec	55	0	0
293	28	9.56	Saskatchewan	1	0	0
38	1	2.63	Yukon Territory	0	0	0

Keep up the good work! To view the complete list, visit www.aagrapevine.org



The theme “80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free” has become part of the experience, strength and hope of an estimated 57,000 attendees: A.A. members, Al-Anon/Alateen members, families and friends.

Area 83 was well represented at the International in attendance, as well as speakers and chairpersons. It was great to see so many friends and to meet so many new ones from all over the world.

Hope to see you in Detroit in 2020 – Start saving now!

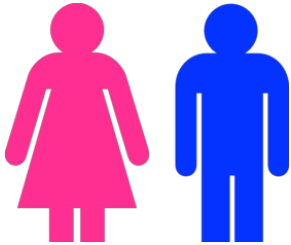


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2014 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

(FULL RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS SUMMER. ALL PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIRS AND DELEGATES WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THE SURVEY IS AVAILABLE)

GENDER OF MEMBERS



38% Women 62% Men

Meeting Attendance: Members attend an average of 2.5 meetings per week.



Average Age of Members is 50 Years

Under age 21	1%
Age 21 to 30	11%
Age 31 to 40	14%
Age 41 to 50	21%
Age 51 to 60	28%
Age 61 to 70	18%
Over 70	7%



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Joyce S.
Panel 65 Delegate
delegate@area83aa.org

Please send your comments and or suggestions to the above email address. What would you like to read about? I welcome all suggestions.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OR REMOVED FROM THIS NEWSLETTER'S ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT THE ABOVE AND YOU WILL BE LOOKED AFTER IMMEDIATELY